



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

March 8, 2004

VALRICO MAN SENTENCED IN AMMONIA CASE

U.S. District Judge James D. Whittemore today sentenced Richard Erick Hansen, Jr., age 30, of Valrico, Florida, to 30 years' imprisonment and five years of supervised release. On December 2, 2003, Hansen pled guilty to conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine and attempting to possess anhydrous ammonia, intending that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

According to court documents, Hansen was arrested by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office on June 22, 2003 after they responded to a report that harassing phone calls were being made from his home located at 2621 Stearns Road, Valrico, Florida. After obtaining a search warrant, detectives discovered numerous chemicals and items used in the manufacture of methamphetamine. Further investigation led to the indictment which charged Hansen with attempting to possess anhydrous ammonia in connection with the incident on May 27, 2003 when an underground pipe was tampered with and a cloud of anhydrous ammonia was spread throughout the FishHawk Ranch area of Hillsborough County.

This investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey Downing.

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